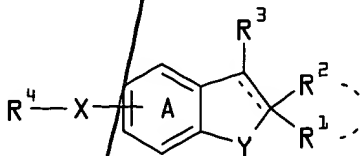


Please rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A compound of the formula:



wherein R¹ and R² each represent an acyclic hydrocarbon group, a cycloalkyl group, or R¹ and R² form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a 3- to 8-membered carbo or heterocyclic ring which may be substituted;

R³ represents an aromatic group which may be substituted;

R⁴ represents (1) an aromatic group which may be substituted, (2) an aliphatic hydrocarbon group substituted by an aromatic group which may be substituted, which hydrocarbon group may be further substituted or (3) an acyl;

X and Y each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom which may be oxidized;

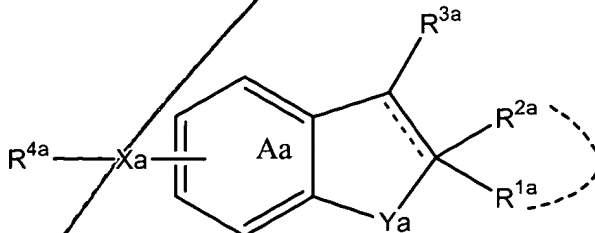
--- represents a single bond or a double bond; and

ring A represents a benzene ring which may be further substituted apart from the group of the formula: -X-R⁴ wherein each symbol is as defined above,

provided that when X and Y are oxygen atoms and --- is a single bond, R⁴ is not an acyl, or a salt thereof.

13. (AMENDED) A compound of Claim 1 which is 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2,4,6,7-tetramethylbenzofuran-5-yl 4-methoxybenzoate, 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2,4,6,7-tetramethylbenzofuran, 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-1',4,6,7-tetramethylspiro(benzofuran-2(3H), 4'-piperidine), or a salt thereof.

22. (THRICE AMENDED) A method for suppressing β -amyloid toxicity in a mammal, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



D³
Contd

wherein R^{1a} and R^{2a} each represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, or R^{1a} and R^{2a} form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a 3- to 8-membered carbo or heterocyclic ring which may be substituted;

R^{3a} represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl which may be substituted or an aromatic group which may be substituted;

R^{4a} represents an aromatic group which may be substituted, an aliphatic hydrocarbon group which may be substituted or an acyl;

Xa represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom which may be oxidized;

Ya represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom which may be oxidized or an imino which may be substituted;

--- represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring Aa represents a benzene ring which may be further substituted apart from (i) the group of the formula: -Xa-R^{4a} wherein each symbol is as defined above, and (ii) an amino which may be substituted,

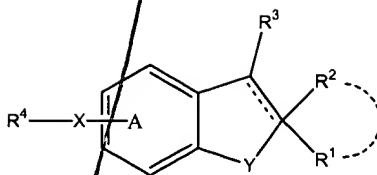
provided that when Xa and Ya are oxygen atoms and --- is a single bond, R^{4a} is not an acyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier or diluent.

D⁴
25. (AMENDED) A method for suppressing β -amyloid toxicity in a mammal, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:

D4
contd



wherein R¹ and R² each represent an acyclic hydrocarbon group, a cycloalkyl group, or R¹ and R² form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a 3- to 8-membered carbo or heterocyclic ring which may be substituted;

R³ represents an aromatic group which may be substituted;

R⁴ represents (1) an aromatic group which may be substituted, (2) an aliphatic hydrocarbon group substituted by an aromatic group which may be substituted, which hydrocarbon group may be further substituted or (3) an acyl;

X and Y each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom which may be oxidized;

----- represents a single bond or a double bond;

and Ring A represents a benzene which may be further substituted apart from the group of the formula: -X-R⁴ wherein each symbol is as defined above,

provided that when X and Y are oxygen atoms and ----- is a single bond, R⁴ is not an acyl,

or a salt thereof

with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier or diluent.

26. (AMENDED) A method of claim 25, which is a method for treating Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's chorea or diabetic neuropathy.

28. (AMENDED) A method of claim 22, which is a method for treating Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's chorea or diabetic neuropathy.